

Remarks

Claims 1-21 were in the application as last examined. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, and 14 are amended, and claim 3 is canceled without prejudice. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments. Applicants respectfully request further examination and consideration in light of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections

All of the claims except claims 3-5 stand rejected under §§102(b) and 103(a). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 3-5 were determined to be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim, thereby effectively rewriting claim 3 into independent form. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to change their dependencies. Claim 9 has been rewritten to make it dependant upon claim 1, and claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the same limitations as claim 1. It is believed that the amendments place all claims into condition for allowance, thus rendering the rejections moot.


Conclusion

Inasmuch as all claims now contain allowable subject matter, as determined by the Examiner, the rejections should be withdrawn and an early notice of allowance issued. Any questions concerning the foregoing should be addressed tot her undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

STEVEN M. ELDERSVELD

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Joel E. Bair, Reg. No. 33,356
MCGARRY BAIR PC
171 MONROE AVE., N.W., SUITE 600
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
Telephone: (616) 742-3500

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